Welfare Measures for Elderly People

1334. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details fo different schemes for the welfare of the elderly people launched/sponsored by Government to mark the year of the elederly people i.e. 1999;

(b) whether there are demands under Government's consideration for some more measures;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A National Policy for Older Persons has been announced which seeks to promote the well being of older persons by attending to their financial. security, helth care, shelter, welfare and other developmental needs. Under this National Policy the Government is committed to facilitate and coordinate efforts of Government departments, local bodies, NGOs, public spirited persons and others aimed at benefiting older persons. Under the Ministry's on going schemes, financial assistance is also being provided to voluntary organisations for construction and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for Older Persons.

(b) to (d) The Government is receiving response from individuals and voluntary organisations welcoming the policy and suggesting some more measures like increase in the Old Age Pension, issue of identity cards, concessional bus and railway passes to all the senior citizens concession in property and income taxes, free medical aid by Govt. hospitals and dispensaries, etc. Subject to feasibility and availability of resources, specific programmes interventions shall be formulated and implemented by the Government as a part of its on going efforts in the field.

Budget for Educational Development of SC Girls

1335. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. Three Crores has been allocated in the Budget estimates of her Ministry for the year 1998-99 for the purpose of eudcuational development of the girls belonging to Scheduled Castes of very low literacy level;

(b) if so, how much amount, out of this, has actually been utilized, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 6,04,294/- has been sanctioned till date. The Government have recently received proposals from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar, which are under process. The low utilisation of fund under the Scheme is due to non-receipt of adquate proposals from the State Governments.

आदिवासियों के विकास हेतु योजनाएं

1336. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1998-99 के लिये आदिवासियों तथा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के विकास हेतु कोई योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) नौंवी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष इन पर कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च किये जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) प्रत्येक राज्य को आवंटित निधियों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान आदिम जनजाति समूहों के विकास की एक नई केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र योजना आरम्भ की गई है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत निधियों का उपयोग उन कार्यकलों/मुद्दों के लिये किया जा सकेगा जो हालांकि आदिम जनजाति समूहों के अस्तित्व, सुरक्षा तथा विकास के लिये अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है फिर भी जो वर्तमान किसी योजना द्वारा पूरे नहीं किये जाते हैं। इस योजना को सम्मेकित आदिवासी विकास परियोजनाओं, आदिवासी अनुसंधान संस्थानों तथा गैर सरकारी संगठनों के माध्यम से कार्यान्वित किया जा सकेगा।

(ग) इस योजना के लिये वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान 4.00 करोड़ रुपए तथा वर्ष 1999-2000 के दौरान 10.00 करोड़ रुपए की राशि की निधियां निर्धारित की गई हैं। नौंवी पंचवर्षीय योजना के शेष वर्षों के लिये अभी तक वर्ष-वार निर्धारण नहीं किया गया है।

(घ) इस योजना के अंतर्गत राज्यों को अब तक आबंटित निधियों के ब्यौरे इस प्रकार हैं:—

राज्य	राशि
1. बिहार	1.00 करोड़ रुपये
2. त्रिपुरा	1.00 करोड़ रुपए
3. राजस्थान	0.3350 करोड़ रुपये

Funds for the Welfare of Widows etc.

1337. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted to the Ministry for the welfare of widow/terrorist-affected women, SC/ST women, destitute children, etc. during the last five years;

(b) how much amount has been utilised during this period out of that; and

(c) the details of assistance provided for the welfare of the above categories during the year 1998-99 and proposed to be provided in Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restructuring and Revamping of the Ministry

1338. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of be SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to restructure and revamp her Ministry;

(b) if so, in what way the Ministry is going to be revamped; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Corpus Fund for Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

1339. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 200 crores has been earmarked in the Nonth Plan as Corpus Fund for Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in pursuance of the request of the Geneal Body of the said Foundation dated 10th April, 1997; and

(b) if so, how this Corpus Fund is proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This corpus fund is beign utilized as per directions of the Governing General Body of the Foundation and the Govt. wherever and whenever such directions are received.